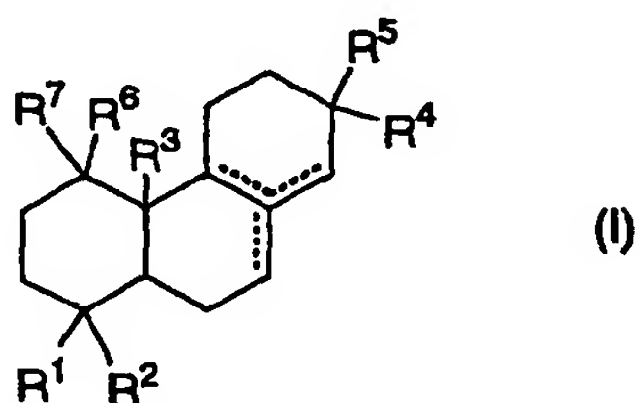


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A potassium channel opener comprising a compound (e.g., pimaric acid) represented by the formula [I]:



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wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde, or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by --- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

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or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an effective ingredient.